

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 ACDA-05 /090 W

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R 060925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9095

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 9 7 7

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ML, UV, TO

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA DISPUTE

REF: A. STATE 103494, B. LOME 797, C. STATE 76032

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN HUNLEDE YESTERDAY AT MY REQUEST TO RAISE INTER ALIA US CONCERN OVER SUBJECT DISPUTE. AT OUTSET OF MY VISIT, HUNLEDE TOOK LONG DISTANCE CALL FROM FONMIN OF NIGER AND MOTIONED ME TO REMAIN SEATED. THEIR BRIEF EXCHANGE CONCERNED "DOCUMENTS."

2. RECALLING PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S COMMENTS TO ME AND GRUMMAN COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES LAST DECEMBER ABOUT IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS, I TOLD HUNLEDE THAT USG HOPED ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WERE MAKING MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SETTLE DIS-
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PUTE PEACEFULLY. EXPRESSED USG'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND SUGGEST-

ED THAT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO COPE WITH AREA'S OTHER PROBLEMS WERE BEING IMPEDED BY DISPUTE. HUNLEDE AGREED WITH LATTER POINT. I SAID WE HAD CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH MALI AND UPPER VOLTA. SINCE EFFORTS TO SETTLE DISPUTE HAD BEEN INTERNATIONALIZED, WE WERE MAINTAINING EMBARGO ON ARMS DELIVERIES TO BOTH STATES. HUNLEDE SHOWED NO INTEREST IN THIS POINT.

3. WITHOUT REFUTING MY OBSERVATION THAT TENSION HAD INCREASED, HUNLEDE SAID SITUATION WAS "BETTER". HE MENTIONED MALI HAD GRANTED MILITARY SUB-COMMISSION PERMISSION TO EXPLORE CONTESTED AREA. HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY TO MY DIRECT QUERY WHETHER HE MEANT SUB-COMMISSION WAS GIVEN ACCESS TO ENTIRE RPT ENTIRE CONTESTED AREA.

4. FONMIN SAID LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION CONTINUING TO STUDY DOCUMENTS AND PLANNED TO MEET AGAIN EARLY JUNE. HE WAS EVASIVE WHEN I INQUIRED WHETHER SUB-COMMISSION AWAITING FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. CHIEFS OF STATE OF MEDIATION COMMISSION MEMBERS WOULD CONVENE THEREAFTER. HUNLEDE STRESSED GOM AND GOUV HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND REPLIED TO QUESTION THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THEY WOULD DO SO.

5. COMMENT: ONE SENSES EYADEMA EITHER HAS TAKEN NO STRONG INITIATIVES IN RECENT WEEKS, OR IS SENSITIVE TO POSSIBILITY HE MAY FAIL IN HIS ROLE OF PEACEMAKER. EITHER CASE COULD EXPLAIN HUNLEDE'S RESERVED COMMENTS TO ME. AS DEPARTMENT HAS LONG KNOWN, HUNLEDE IN ANY CASE IS NEVER ONE TO CONVERSE FREELY AND CANDIDLY ABOUT OFFICIAL MATTERS. MOREOVER, BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN IMMERSSED OVER PAST TWO WEEKS IN VISITS OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT AND NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND TOGOLESE INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES. IN CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THESE, ENTIRE UPPER ECHELON OF GOT IS ALWAYS THINLY SPREAD.
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